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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: TURKEY: 2003 TERRORISM REPORT

(U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires a.i. Robert S. Deutsch; reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

OVERVIEW

11. (U) Combating terrorism has long been a priority for the Government of Turkey (GOT). In 2003, Turkey continued its strong support of the coalition in the global war against terror in Afghanistan by a for up to a year, but conditions in Iraq prevented deployment in 2003.

12. (U) In separate November incidents in Istanbul, terrorists detonated truck bombs near two synagogues and, five days later, outside the Brit Turks and foreigners, occasionally including USG personnel, for over 40 years. International and domestic terrorist groups operating in Turkey include Marxist-Leninist, radical Islamist, separatist, and

U.S. Designated Terrorist Organizations

13. (U) On October 8, 1997, the Secretary of State named the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C, formerly known as Rev designations for another two years. (The PKK changed its name to the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress, or KADEK, and in November 2003

Marxist-Leninist

14. (U) The main radical-left terror organization, DHKP-C, conducts small-scale operations against Turks and foreigners alike (armed attacks or resurgence in membership attributed to the left's dissatisfaction with the current government, which has Islamist roots. DHKP-C claimed respon

15. (U) Other active far-left terrorist organizations include the Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist (TKP/ML), the Turkish Workers' and F 12003. In each instance, a sound bomb was placed on a doorstep or in the vicinity of a business in the evening hours when injury to innocent k

Radical Islamist

16. (U) The primary radical Islamist terror group of Turkey is Turkish Hizbullah. Known to fight its rivals, namely the PKK (and its successor has speculated that Hizbullah may have played a role in the November bombings in Istanbul.

17. (U) Other Islamic groups include the Great Eastern Raider's Front (IBDA-C), Federal Islamic State of Anatolia (Kaplancilar), Selam Group, I

Separatist

18. (U) KHK, formerly known as the PKK and, later, KADEK, is the largest separatist organization in Turkey. There are credible indications the recruited from local villagers). This effort ultimately led to the arrest and conviction of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan in 1999. The European

19. (U) In the summer of 2003, KADEK renounced its self-proclaimed cease-fire and threatened to renew its separatist struggle in both the South U.S. is committed to eliminating the threat to Turkey posed by the PKK/KADEK in Iraq. In November 2003, KADEK changed its name to the Kurdist

Chechens in Turkey

110. (U) Although Chechen terrorists did not conduct any major operations in Turkey in 2003, they maintain the capability to do so, according to Turkish officials. Large numbers of Turks, many with roots i an April 22, 2001 seizure of Istanbul's Swiss Hotel by 13 pro-Chechen Turkish citizens who held 150 hostages, including 37 Americans, for appr

111. (U) The capitalized titles below correspond to reftel questions.

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GOT ACTIONS SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM
(A)
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112. (U) Turkey remained a strong and active contributor to the Global War on Terrorism effort. Turkey agreed to extend its leadership of the

113. (U) Although it denied permission for U.S. troops to deploy to Iraq at the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from Turkey, Turkey prov contributed humanitarian goods and services and sold vital material such as fuel, food and water to U.S. forces in Iraq. Turkey also sold elect reconstruction. Turkey pledged USD 50 million at the Madrid Conference. In October 2003, the Turkish Parliament approved a motion granting the GOT permission to deploy Turkish force in Iraq as part of a

114. (U) Turkey continues to counter Al-Qaida activity in Turkey. In 2003, Turkish authorities apprehended several senior-level Al Qaida opere

115. (SBU) In compliance with UN Security Resolution 1373, Turkey has ratified all United Nations conventions on combating terrorism. However, jurisdictional disputes between courts; 3) make it easier to seize terrorists, assets; 4) improve functioning of MASAK (the Turkish financial i assistance in drafting and implementation. The U.S. has initiated such assistance, and the EU plans to do so beginning in early 2004.

116. (U) Turkish efforts to seize the assets of those who fund terrorist organizations have been further hampered by insufficient training and support from top levels of the GOT.

RESPONSE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM (B)

117. (U) State Security Courts (DGM) in eight provinces, with jurisdiction for all crimes that fall within the purview of the Anti-Terror Law, their trials.

EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS (C/D)

¶18. (U) In 2003, the Republic of Turkey did not seek the extradition of any suspects from the United States on terror-related charges, nor did

¶19. (U) In the past, Turkey has faced difficulty in extraditing terror-related suspects from European countries. According to government officials, the death penalty has all proved impediments to such extraditions. However, in August 2002, as a part of the European Union reform package,

RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION (E)

¶20. (U) Turks see themselves to be among the world's primary victims of terrorism. They cite the 15-year insurgency of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (Kurdistan Workers' Party) terrorists. The Turkish government and media were quick to respond to the events of September 11. At all levels, there was an outpouring of support over the last two years. There has been visible support for the security of Americans at our mission's buildings by local police.

¶21. (U) The Turkish stand on terrorism has been somewhat softer in the case of the Chechens. There are cultural and religious ties between Turkey and Chechnya.

¶22. (U) The leftist and Islamic fringe press sometimes portrays Chechen rebels, Palestinian suicide bombers and even Al Qaida members as "freedom fighters."

MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS BY THE GOT (F)

¶23. (U) The Government of Turkey continued its aggressive counterterrorism efforts in 2003. In addition to sharing intelligence information on various groups operating in Turkey, the Turkish National Police has carried out a number of high-level Al Qaida operations. In 2003 the GOT took into custody a number of high-level Al Qaida operatives.

¶24. (U) The GOT continues its active suppression of the PKK/KADEK/KHK, though its security operations tempo has been significantly reduced in line with a reduction in the conflict. It continues to monitor the organization's political movements in an effort to prevent them from escalating.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM (G)

¶25. (U) The GOT consistently and strongly opposes both domestic and international terrorism. Turkey does not view its maintenance of diplomatic relations with terrorist countries as a contradiction.

SUPPORT STATEMENTS FOR TERRORIST COUNTRIES (H)

¶26. (U) Turkey shares borders with, and has been an historic trading partner of Syria, Iran and Iraq. It balances a condemnation of terrorist state-supported terrorism with the need to maintain good relations with these countries.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS TERRORISM (I)

¶27. (U) Since the attacks of September 11, the GOT has taken an active role in the worldwide opposition against terrorism. In May 2002 the European Union placed the PKK and DHKP/C on its list of terrorist groups after an intensive push by the GOT for the EU to adopt tougher measures against Turkish terror groups operating in Iraq. The international community to recognize the PKK/KADEK successor group, KHK, as a terrorist organization.

USG COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES WITH GOT (J)

¶28. (U) Turkey remains a staunch ally in the War on Terrorism. The Turkish National Police (TNP) continues to provide excellent protection of U.S. personnel and facilities.

¶29. (U) In September and October 2003, USG officials met with interagency Turkish teams to work out a joint action plan to eliminate the threat posed by the PKK/KADEK/KHK presence in northern Iraq. Turkey announced that the terrorist group had no future in northern Iraq. To generate momentum for returns to Turkey, the USG worked with the Turks and UNHCR to encourage the group's return.

¶30. (U) As noted above, Turkey is now in the process of modifying its domestic laws to comply with the UN Convention on Suppression of Terrorism.

¶31. (U) Turkey is also an active participant in the Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance program. Since 2001, the Turks have participated in a number of training exercises. (Information for the Report's classified annex)

¶32. (S) The Turkish Government continued to allow the use of Incirlik AFB to support U.S. operations in and out of Afghanistan and Iraq, including:

- Allowed the U.S. to use Incirlik Air Base as a key transit point for humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan and Iraq;
- Authorized the U.S. to use Incirlik Air Base to transit Taliban and Al-Qaida detainees from Afghanistan to GTMO;
- Allowed the U.S. military to station tankers at Incirlik Air Base to support OIF- and OEF-related refueling missions;
- Contributed KC-135 tankers to support OEF-related operations;
- As a result of S/CT Coordinator Black's enhanced intelligence sharing regarding PKK/KADEK/KHK as part of the joint action plan to eliminate the threat posed by the group in northern Iraq.

COOPERATION-INVESTIGATION/PROSECUTION (K/1)

(Information for the Report's Classified Annex)

¶33. (C) The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between the United States and Turkey, which entered into force in January 1981, governs investigative cooperation. The GOT has processed requests for investigative assistance from the U.S.

COOPERATION-PREVENTION (K/2)

134. (U) The GOT coordinates closely with the USG on anti-terrorist financing initiatives. In response to USG requests to freeze terrorist-rel

COOPERATION DURING PAST FIVE YEARS-PREVENTION (L)

135. (U) Overall, in the last five years, the GOT has worked closely with the USG in the apprehension, conviction, and punishment of those resp
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